



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2002: CA SEC. OF STATE BILL JONES IS INCREASING HIS PUBLIC PROFILE FOR A 2002 RUN.

Editor's note: Calif. Secretary of State Bill Jones of Fresno is beginning to step up his public & media appearances throughout Calif. – the ultimate goal of course is to run for something Statewide in 2002. Does he have his eye on the corner office in the State Capitol now occupied by Gov. Gray Davis(D)? Probably, but Jones has a long way to go before he becomes ready for prime time. Here's our report & analysis...

...Thanks to a monumental screw up by former Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush, Jones is now the only Statewide GOP officeholder in Calif. Although it's a moot point now, Quackenbush, a moderate pro-choice GOPer cut from the Pete Wilson mold, had a slightly better political profile to run statewide than Jones. Jones is a traditional conservative who is pro-life on the abortion question. After serving in the Assembly from 1982-94, Jones won a narrow election to the SOS job in '94 by beating Tony Miller(D). In his '98 reelection bid, Jones had another close call against Democrat Michela Alioto. The only thing Quackenbush and Jones had in common was campaign consultant Joe Shumate, a savvy political guru who has helped both. Back to Jones...

...The latest effort to grab some free tv time and headlines came Jan. 16th in Sacramento when Jones and Assembly Elections Cmt. Chair John Longville(D-Rialto) sponsored a Calif. Election Technology Exposition. A great photo op. And about 12 days prior to the expo, Jones put out a news release calling on Davis and Calif. Legislators to reject campaign contributions from the utilities and energy producers until the electric crisis is resolved. More headlines & ink...

...Most Capital sources suspect Jones is watching this growing energy crisis carefully – to see if Davis stumbles. Even though his job is that of being the State's chief elections officer, Jones and his savvy staff know how to jump aboard a hot issue when they see it. Calpeek sources give Jones solid marks during his 7 years as SOS. He got an "A" for defending Calif.'s now defunct Open Primary Law...

...But before Jones can really think seriously about running against Davis, he must mend GOP bridges in Calif. For those with short memories, Jones was an early supporter of George W. Bush in Calif., but in the midst of the Calif. primary he jumped to the John McCain side. That left a very bitter taste with GWB's key supporters. "He (Jones) had to have known that by switching sides he'd infuriate the very people he'd need (the big GOP contributors) if he were thinking of running statewide in 2002," a GOP source told Calpeek...

...If there is a weakness in Jones as a political campaigner, it's in the area of fundraising. He's good at talking about fundraising, but when it comes to actually hauling in the big bucks, Jones is nowhere close to Davis. Some GOP sources think Jones could build a case against the Davis fundraising tactics. "But even if he has a good message (about Davis), he needs money to get the message out," another GOP source told Calpeek. And that brings us back full circle to the Bush backstab and Jones' efforts to mend bridges with GWB's contributor base in Calif. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: BATTLE FOR L.A. CITY ATTORNEY.

Editor's note: L.A. City Attorney Jim Hahn is *termed out* and running for mayor. For the most part, the L.A. City Attorney has always played *second fiddle* to the L.A. Co. DA. It's just the nature of the job – the DA handles the high profile felony cases and the city attorney gets the misdemeanors. Hahn has never been much of a *media hound* like one of his predecessors – Ira Reiner, but with the Rampart LAPD scandal, Hahn's office have been forced into the spotlight. Here's our first look at this April 10th primary contest. We'll also *update* the L.A. Mayor's race...

...There are four(4) contenders who hope to replace Hahn, but only three are considered serious: L.A. Councilman Michael Feuer; L.A. Deputy Mayor Rocky Delgadillo; and L.A. Co. Deputy DA Lea Purwin D'Agostino. The fourth candidate is Frank Tavelman, who is also a Deputy DA. The *key issue* in this contest will be the Rampart scandal (and the consent decree) – make no mistake...

...If you believe insiders, this contest is headed for a June 5th runoff and the big question is whether it's Delgadillo or D'Agostino who has the best chance of stopping Feuer. There is an *ABF* (*anyone but Feuer*) attitude about the councilman among some City Hall types and political insiders. And there's no doubt when it comes to grabbing a headline, Feuer is closer to Reiner's style than Hahn's. Still many insiders regard Feuer as the frontrunner in this contest. He was first to announce and he's got tons of endorsements (U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, John Van de Kamp, 5 L.A. City Council colleagues, L.A. City Attorneys Assn.) and a good-sized war chest. Larry Levine is Feuer's lead consultant...

...Delgadillo is running with the support of outgoing L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan. It's a critical element in his campaign. Delgadillo has been with Riordan's administration since '97, in charge of economic development. He also has been endorsed by L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca. Delgadillo has hired David Axelrod as his tv/media consultant; with Larry Grisolano as daily mgr.; and Fairbank Maslin Maullin on polling. Alice Borden is Delgadillo's fundraiser. Sources say Delgadillo will have the resources to match Feuer...

...D'Agostino has run for office before and because she's not shy (she comes across as tough) is a frequent radio/tv talk show guest. And she's been a successful prosecutor for many years. D'Agostino's ballot title helps, but her key problem may be money. It doesn't appear that she's as well funded as either Feuer or Delgadillo. But she is the only woman running and does have the endorsement of most line cop groups in the State, from the Assn. of L.A. Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS) and the L.A. Police Protective League to CCPOA, the L.A. School Police and many others. Rick Taylor is D'Agostino's consultant...

...UPDATE on L.A. Mayor's race. Among the Big 6, there is a *monster struggle* to win the backing of the L.A. Co. Federation of Labor's COPE (Cmt. on Political Education) endorsement. The battle is essentially between former Demo Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa and L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn. While the other four mayoral candidates may have *some* labor support, it's minor compared to Hahn and Villaraigosa. The COPE votes take place Feb. 8th and 10th. The new COPE Director is Martin Ludlow, who is a former legislative and campaign staffer for Antonio Villaraigosa. He was named to the post by L.A. Co. Federation of Labor chief Miguel Contreras. Hahn won the support of the big L.A. City SEIU Local #347, but Villaraigosa's SEIU supporters pulled a fast one: each of SEIU's 7 locals will be permitted to vote *individually* for their favorite mayoral candidates. In other words, no bloc voting...

...Of the Big 6, all except Steve Soboroff will take matching funds. To get the matching funds, Villaraigosa, Wachs, Hahn, Connell and Becerra have to keep spending to \$2.2 million and spend less than \$100,000 of their own money. In order to move his name ID somewhere close to where Wachs and Hahn are now, Soboroff will have to start spending big bucks fairly soon. He's got deep pockets and some sources think he'll spend \$2-3 million more than his 5 rivals...

...FYI: Councilman Joel Wachs has named Susan Burnside as his daily cmp. mgr.; Paul Goodwin of GLS Research will handle polling. Brian Rix and Pat Bradford have been with Wachs doing fundraising for many months. Wachs has yet to announce who his tv/media consultant will be, but he told **Calpeek** an announcement will be made soon. Stay tuned...

UPDATE: BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF CALIF. GOP. Editor's note: Here's another update on the battle for control of the Calif. Republican Party (CRP). The CRP's 1,400 delegates will be meeting in Sacramento Feb. 23-25 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to select new officers for the coming year...

...In – and – out. That's the best way to describe the short candidacy of former Congressman Jim Rogan of Glendale, as he toyed with the idea of running for Chair of the CRP. As **Calpeek** hit deadline Jan. 10th, the two leading contenders to replace John McGraw, current CRP Vice Chair Shawn Steel and former Assemblyman Brooks Firestone, had just made presentations to the combined GOP Legislative membership. After they finished, Rogan (via a cell phone call) said he'd run IF both Firestone and Steel stepped aside --- and if he were given a 4-year contract @ \$225,000 per year. While Steel and Firestone were taken by surprise at Rogan's announcement, neither blinked – and thus Rogan's first condition that both drop out of the running, didn't come to pass. So Rogan is OUT. The odd thing is that a month before this happened, Steel had met with Rogan in DC and Rogan said at that time he wasn't interested in the chairmanship of the CRP...

...The Rogan boomlet added some excitement to an otherwise dull contest between Steel and Firestone. Most sources think Steel will be the eventual winner. And Steel is running on a plank he calls "The West Coast Offense." It's a 10-page plan to unite Calif. Republicans behind the single goal of carrying Calif. for Pres. George W. Bush in 2004...

...The key part of Steel's plan is to *professionalize* the CA Republican Party – mold it like the CA Demo Party, with its cadre of professional political operatives. The 3 elements which Steel focuses on are communications, fundraising and

voter contact. Of the three, Steel thinks communications should get top priority. He wants to hire a communications director to go toe-to-toe with the CDP's Bob Mulholland. And that person will be located in the CRP's Sacto office, so that person can coordinate the GOP message with both the Assembly and State Senate Republicans. And Steel is also proposing a Gray Davis Watch – a comprehensive op research project to document Davis' every move and to "ensure that Gray Davis is constantly engaged on the media battlefield." Steel sees Davis as a threat to GWB's reelection in 2004, which is why he's targeted the Demo governor. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: EARLY SPRING MUNI ELECTIONS.

Editor's note: Here is Part II of Calpeek's continuing reports on early spring municipal elections...

☒ **Long Beach Special Election** – When Jenny Oropeza was elected to the Calif. Assembly last November, it created an opening on the Long Beach City Council in the Oropeza's 1st District. This special will be Mar. 27th and it will be a *winner-take-all* situation. Sources who are familiar with Long Beach politics say the 1st District is not noted for large voter turnouts and the Mar. 27th special is expected to follow that pattern (low voter turnout). Five candidates are in this battle. In the *first tier* are school board member Bonnie Lowenthal (ex-wife of Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal) and businesswoman Christine Rodriguez-Lara. In the *2nd tier* is Peter Mathews (familiar name because he's run for other offices before). And in the *3rd tier* is Ski Demski and Laura Brasser. Mathews always runs well-funded campaigns, but in this special sources are fairly sure he'll finish well out of the running. Sources in the Lowenthal camp say Oropeza was going to back the school board member, but then backed away to support Rodriguez-Lara. Ethnic politics at play, but so what. Lowenthal's campaign is being run by SG&A Campaigns, while Rodriguez-Lara has hired consultant Rick Taylor...

☒ **Carson** – The big news out of this South Bay city of 87,647 is that longtime Mayor Pete Fajardo will not seek reelection Mar. 6th. That leaves 5 candidates in the running. They include former Mayor Mike Mitoma; City Clerk Helen Kawagoe; activist James Peoples; teacher Elito Santerina; and Councilman Daryl Sweeney. In Carson, the mayor is elected separately from the council and both the mayor and council face voters every two years. And two years ago the big battle was between Fajardo and Mitoma and the issue was a proposed NFL football stadium in Carson (the Mike Ovitz plan). Fajardo was in favor, Mitoma opposed. It's a toss up right now, but in the past Fajardo and Sweeney have been allies – so it's possible Fajardo will back Sweeney...

CAMPAIGN 2002: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Would you believe Calif.'s Mar. 5, 2002, ballot may have very few ballot measures? It's true. Just one measure has qualified thus far and Calif. Sec. of State Bill Jones' office says the last day to submit initiatives for *title & summary* is **Jan. 25th** – if the initiative sponsor is to get the full 150-days to collect signatures. The Jan. 25th date also assumes the sponsor's initiative will qualify with a random sample count. Here's our brief update...

- Qualified: **Insurance Fraud** (SB 1988 by State Sen. Jackie Speier(D-San Mateo). This is an act to amend sections of the Business & Professional code, insurance code and vehicle code relating to insurance fraud...

- Searching for Signatures:

- ☞ **Peace Officer & Firefighter Property Tax Exemption. Initiative Const. Amendment.**
Deadline: 2/26/01 670,816 signatures required

- ☞ **Digital Signatures. Election Petitions. Public and Private Transaction. Statute.**
Deadline: 3/12/01 419,260 signatures required

- ☞ **Legalized Gambling. Initiative Const. Amend.**
Deadline: 4/5/01 670,816 signatures required

- At the AG's office: **Student Eye Examinations.**

Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

- **Redo Eu** – Former CA Sec. of State March Fong Eu has formed an exploratory committee to run for her old job. The Demo from Oakland was elected SOS in 1974 and served until 1994. She is now 78. Tony Miller, who served under Eu as her chief deputy, is now Eu's campaign treasurer. Miller tried to succeed Eu in '94, but was narrowly defeated by current SOS Bill Jones(R). Eu says she'll make a formal announcement in March...

- **32nd CD Update** – With the filing deadline 4 weeks away (Feb. 26th), 10 candidates have taken out *signature in lieu of filing fee* papers to run for the late Julian Dixon's 32nd CD. Those who have taken out papers include L.A. Councilman Nate Holden; attorney Leo Terrell(D); Mervin Evans(D); Elisha "Smitty" Smith(D); Richard Atkins(D); Donna Warren(Green); Franklyn Rodgers(Green); Kenneth

Schwartz(R); and Michael Cyrus(R). FYI: our sources say former Demo State Sen. Tom Hayden(D) will NOT run for Dixon's seat...

■ **24th SD Update** – The filing deadline is Jan. 22nd. The primary election is Mar. 6th, with a May 1st runoff. Candidates who have filed include former Assemblyman Martin Gallegos(D); current Assemblywoman Gloria Romero(D); Carl "Marty" Swinney(Libertarian); and Vincent House(R). This special is to replace Hilda Solis(D), who was elected to the U.S. House this past November. FYI: Gallegos, Swinney and House are doing the *signatures in lieu of filing fee routine*...

■ **36th CD Update** – When Jane Harman(D) defeated GOP Congressman Steve Kuykendall of Palos Verdes last Nov. 7th by 4,400 votes, Kuykendall was fighting not only Harman, but Dr. Will Davies, an MD who was an official GOP write-in candidate. Turns out that Davies didn't get that many votes: 395 according to the L.A. Co. Registrar. However, keep in mind that Kuykendall had a hardline conservative primary opponent (Bob Pegram) who got 11,856 votes. Given the fact that an anti-Kuykendall hit mailing from Calif. Right to Life PAC went to GOP voters days before the election, it's probable that many of those who voted for Pegram in the primary decided to not vote for Kuykendall...

■ **Grays Pleads Guilty** – Former CA Deputy Ins. Comm. George Grays has pleaded guilty to two counts of mail fraud and one count of money laundering – charges stemming from the criminal probe which drove former Insurance Comm. Chuck Quackenbush(R) from office. Gray could get up to 30 years in the slammer + \$1 million in fines, but he's helping Federal and State authorities with the case. Under this plea bargain, the prosecutors will recommend leniency when Grays is sentenced on April 12th. Who's next???

■ **Calif.'s New Websit** – It's actually pretty good. Check it out at www.my.ca.gov. One little problem: the webmaster needs to update the political section because there are some mistakes...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Jan. 24-28	AAPC convention, Washington DC.
Feb. 6	65 th AD special election primary.
Feb. 8 & 10	L.A. Co. COPE (endorsement meetings).
Feb. 23-25	CA Republican Party spring convention @ Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sacramento.
Feb. 25-27	Sacramento Seminar.
Feb. 27	Burbank city election.
Mar. 6	60 municipal elections, mostly L.A. County; 24 th SD Special election primary.

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these announcements...

- A sad note: former CA State Senator and Congressman John G. Schmitz died Jan. 10th after a long battle with cancer. He was originally from Orange Co. but had been living in the DC area for many years. R.I.P...
- Phillip J. Pace has been reelected as chair of the Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.(MWD)...
- Mitchell Englander has been promoted from p/a mgr. to associate VP at the MWW Group in L.A...
- Gov. Davis has named O. George Oleksyn as Director of Trade & Commerce in the agency's office in Germany; and Anna Olvera is the new Director of Trade & Commerce in the agency's L.A. regional office...
- The American Insurance Assn.(AIA) has hired Mark Sektnan as an asst. VP for state affairs for AIA's Western region. He'll be based in Sacto...
- Stoorza Communications, Inc. has hired Marice White as an Acct. Sup. and Scott Fiset as an AE in the firm's L.A. office...
- The L.A.-based pr/pa firm of Rogers & Associates has hired Stephen Esbin as a VP...

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- **Bay Area communications/political consulting firm** seeks Account Executive for public agency, private sector, and political clients. Media, campaign, or government affairs experience desirable. \$42,000+/year, benefits. Fax resume to (510)420-0876.
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